ARMY ARCHERD

JUST FOR VARIETY

GOOD MORNING: From now on, when we refer to WWII—it'll be for "Wayne's World II." Lorne Michaels, Brandon Tartikoff and John Goldwyn, at Morton's Monday, were talking the sequel. Michaels wants "WWII" to be made "sooner than later." And that means this summer. But they're still talking. And will continue the talks next week in N.Y. Michaels also plans a Cone Head movie by/with Dan Aykroyd at Par. "I live to serve Paramount," Michaels laughed. He also lives to serve "Saturday Night Live"—which received its highest rating average, 9.4/27, last month. Said Michaels, "I'll stay with 'SNL' as long as there's an NBC." Hmmm ... March 14, Garth Brooks and John Goodman host "SNL." Another "SNL" alumnus, Jon Lovitz, stars in a new form "live" show for Fox, launching in May from Brillstein-Grey in association with Castle Rock. Alan Zweibel scripts-produces ... Also at Fox TV, Dave Thomas is writing, will produce "Everything but the Show"—it's about writers of a TV show. This could be very funny. On second thought, this better be very funny ... With the enormous success of the feature version of "Wayne's World," offers have increased for a bigscreen "Beverly Hills, 90210." But Aaron Spelling tells us it won't happen. "I won't prostitute the show for a quick buck. I won't take them (the kids) out of the context of their times. It's different on 'Wayne's World,' they can do anything they want" ... Spelling is going ahead with plans for his "Melrose Place" series, but a Malibu series is meeting with problems—like restrictions on allowable time to shoot in Malibu—plus the high cost of renting a Malibu house. Or have you tried to rent a beachfront house for a month? ... Malibu, meanwhile, announces its plan to raise revenue without imposing taxes by developing a licensing program of its name, with its logo on everything from the obvious beachwear to "other products which will meet the city's standards of environmental awareness." You'll excuse us, but first the city should clean up the garbage that adorns the sidewalks in the heart of Malibu.

SAD TO REPORT Oscar Lerman died Monday night at home after a five-year battle with prostate cancer. He kept his pain a secret, wife Jackie Collins told us. "He was very brave." Services will be held 12:30 Friday at Pierce Bros., Westwood ... "The JFK Assassination: The Jim Garrison Tapes," a 98-minute docu, was screened Monday at Loews Santa Monica by Blue Ridge/Filmtrust only hours after it was completed by writer-director John Barbour. Mark Lane was on hand with Barbour. The latter told us the tape with Garrison, made 10 years ago, evoked no interest. But after "JFK," Barbour was told, "You're sitting on a gold mine." Barbour and Lane are also working on a play version of Lane's book, "Plausible Denial" (Thundermouse Press), which Barbour modestly calls "The 'Inherit the Wind' of this decade" ... Tom Arnold hosts a screening tomorrow of Miramax's 100-minutes-long 1990 Oscar-winning docu, "Ameri-

FOX TO AFFILS: OPT FOR CO-OP

BY RICHARD HUFF

NEW YORK—Fox Broadcasting Co. is encouraging its affiliates to take advantage of co-op advertising funds to bring the level of their May sweeps viewing up, seeking to boost projections for an additional night of programming expected to bow in the summer.

Fox pointed out to stations that any sales forecasts for the new night would be based on the performance during the sweeps period.

Throughout the May sweeps, Thursday, Friday and Sunday night programming is eligible for extra radio and print co-op dollars.

Fox is also making the dollars available for "Fox Night at the Movies" through March and April. Under the co-op plans, Fox credits or pays rebates to affiliates who place local ads for the weblet's programs.

With plans for the added night, it's expected Fox will pull out all the stops when scheduling the May sweeps. Indeed, the weblet is coming off what is likely to be its best February sweeps performance in its history (see ratings story, page 1).

Recent speculation has Fox adding Wednesday nights to its lineup, anchored by the "Beverly Hills, 90210" spinoff "Melrose Place," although a company spokeswoman said no decisions have been made.

Another night will be introduced six to 18 months later, depending on the economy.

Fox O&O group exits INTV in move to tighten budget

BY JIM BENSON

The seven-station Fox O&O group has pulled out of the Assn. of Independent Television Stations, a move that will save the group about $200,000 a year.

Fox Television Stations prez Greg Nathanson blamed competitive and economic factors for the decision to withdraw yesterday.

"We have been exploring for a couple of years whether we want to be members of INTV or not," he said.

ward position because we don't share the same interests or perspective of either independent stations or network affiliates. We're sort of in between—a network by night and an indie by day—and feel that we have to forge ahead on our own."

Nathanson maintained that Fox has "nothing against" INTV, which has strongly opposed departing Fox chairman Barry Diller's efforts to repeal cable's compulsory copyright license.

The cancellation of Fox's INTV membership is unrelated to any issue or Diller's resignation, ac-

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